

Misterton

Village Magazine



April 2022



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Note from the editors

April has us thinking about lambs and bunnies and eggs, especially chocolate eggs... chocolate bunnies... mmm chocolate. Sorry, where were we?

For a lot of people, April means Easter and our magazine this month is a bit of a celebration of all things Easter. From our newborn lamb on the cover (courtesy of Andy Evis) to John Coquet's article about how Easter is celebrated around the world.

While we celebrate however, we should be mindful of those whose Easter will look very different to ours. Anne's letter talks about kindness to others and on page 31 you can find details of some local fundraising events that support refugee charities.

Happy Easter to all.

Jacquie Lyus and Sarah Watt

Deadline for entries for the May magazine is Thursday 21st April.

Contributions please to mistertonmagazine@gmail.com or through the letter box at Chestnut Lodge, Broughtons Drive.

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John Coquet Writer 01460 78430

Misterton Village Magazine is now also online!

<https://mistertonparishcouncil.org.uk/village-information/village-magazine/>



DIY assistance needed

I live on my own (with a little dog) and have limitations due to health conditions. I am looking for a person who could help with small maintenance jobs and DIY at my place. I live in Abri housing so jobs would include things like gardening, painting walls, putting up shelves etc. I have a very limited budget as I pay for care but can pay a small amount.

Might be ideal for a retired person or avid DIY enthusiast.

Please call Rachael Cooper on 01460 271599.

Misterton Emergency and Resilience Team update

Due to the poor weather leading to power outages MERT, along with other support groups, have been contacted by Avon and Somerset Police asking if we were aware of any vulnerable people in the community. This was not the case and further checks did not reveal any issues, which we think is because if anyone needs help neighbours rally round to help which reflects well on our community. Just in case we have missed anyone we are using this opportunity to do one more check to ask if you become aware of anyone who might need help, with adverse weather effects, to let us know and we will advise the relevant authorities.

As mentioned in the last edition of the magazine, MERT attended a meeting in Ilminster to share our experiences to help them set up their own resilience group. This went well, albeit with some lively discussion, and we will continue to liaise with them and other support groups to address flooding issues where we can.

Finally, we have had a couple of enquiries for DIY support in the village. As there are only six MERT core members we are putting this in the magazine to see if anyone in the village is willing and able to help with small jobs from time to time. If so please let us know.

As ever comments and input welcome.

Phil

MERT member philclifton@hotmail.com

01460 73815

Misterton Emergency and Resilience Team

If an incident occurs in Misterton and you would like the assistance of the emergency and resilience team please call:

Iain Rowland on 01460 78951 or 07968 232998

Phil Clifton and Sally Gray on 01460 73815 or 07775 841204 philclifton@hotmail.com

Peter Meakins on 01460 74220

Pete and Jackson Marshall on 01460 73507 or 07909 967319 / 07980 768125

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News from the Parish Council and Recreation Field Trust



The war in Ukraine is the main news item at this moment. Should any refugees take temporary residence in our village I am sure they will be made most welcome.

In last month's magazine the precept increase was mentioned but there was a mistake. The figure of £5.25 per month for a Band D property should have been £5.25 per year. This means an increase of 52.5p per month over a ten-month payment term or 44p per month spread over 12 months. Those of you that have received your statement from SSDC will note that the increase in the precept for Misterton is shown as 9%. Your parish council applied for an increase of 6% however this figure is subject to multipliers and tax base rates applied by SSDC. When next year's precept is being decided the parish council will take into account any increases in inflation and the general financial welfare of residents and should it be necessary draw upon reserves to keep any increase at an affordable level.

I must remind you that elections are on the horizon and should any of you wish to stand for election then the necessary papers are available from the clerk at mistertonpc@gmail.com.

Cllr Iain Rowland

Chairman

Misterton Parish Council

WELCOME INFORMATION LEAFLET for newcomers to the village - a useful leaflet telling you all you need to know about Misterton is available on our website at Misterton Parish Council; alternatively, if you would like a copy via email or a hard copy, please contact the Parish Clerk at mistertonpc@gmail.com. ***Village businesses who advertise in this leaflet should forward any amendments to the Parish Clerk.***

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Letter from Anne

As I write this letter, I had planned for it to be full of hope, as I see the blossom breaking forth, and the 250 daffodil bulbs I planted come into flower (OK I may have over ordered!).

And yet once more the world is plunged into chaos as on the very day Covid restrictions are lifted, Putin invaded the Ukraine. I cannot begin to understand all the politics of central Europe, but I do know, through a friend who has many Russian friends, that ordinary Russian people are as appalled as we are at this unprovoked attack.

When any man or woman is 100% sure that they are right and are not prepared to listen to the views of others, we are in trouble.

Harper Lee in his wonderful book *To Kill a Mockingbird* said "You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view... Until you climb inside of his skin and walk around in it."

It seems sadly Putin quite clearly has not read this.

When these global catastrophes occur we can feel completely overwhelmed. In these days of rapid communications we know almost too much.

We have to ask where is God in all this? What does God say? He says...love thy neighbour... look out for those you can help, the good you can do, whether that means physically picking up the phone and mending a broken relationship or dropping a cake round to someone who is lonely, or giving what you can to the Red Cross or some other charity who can help directly with the outcomes of one man's inhumanity to others.

We cannot solve global catastrophe, but we can make Mrs Smith's or Mr Jones' life down the road a little better.

We are seeing the wonderful kindness of people opening their houses to refugees, not short term, but long term. Although no one wants to see suffering, we do see exceptional kindness coming out of it.

We can only pray that as we reach Easter on 17th April this year, we will see times of better news, but in the meantime let us hang on to all the extraordinary kindness we are seeing, and remember that our God of love will be walking alongside the refugees, standing with the people of the Ukraine as they strive to defend their country, holding the hands of the doctors and nurses struggling in appalling conditions. God I am sure will also be walking alongside the ordinary Russian soldier who has no desire, but no option, but to do as ordered.

Lord, make me a channel of your peace

Every blessing

Rev Anne Charlton



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Misterton WI

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 5th April and the speaker will be Zabeth Reid (who was booked last year before our current Tai Chi classes commenced). She will be giving a Tai Chi demonstration. The competition is for 'A Chinese Item'. After the business section and the talk, we will be serving light refreshments as usual. Annual subs are due to be paid at this meeting. New and prospective members are welcome to join us. Enquiries: Carol Walker 01460 74808, Sue May 01460 73934.

Proposed sale of hall: matters are progressing slowly and we will keep you informed of developments. Meanwhile, the hall is open for business as usual and bookings can be made via Margaret Small on 01460 74853. Enquiries: Carol Walker 01460 74808, Susan May 01460 73934.

Coffee morning: our coffee mornings will recommence on Wednesday 6th April (10am-12:00) - all are welcome. An opportunity to catch up with fellow villagers over a cuppa.

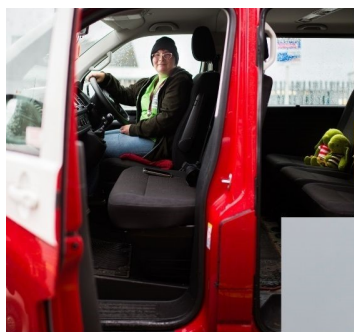
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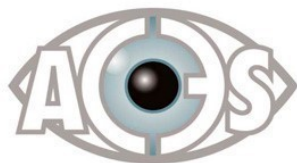
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Operation Mincemeat: a curious local connection

A new film entitled Operation Mincemeat is about to be released and locally we have a true-life connection with one of its foremost characters. Many of us deal with Crewkerne Horticultural in North Street but did you know that the man who founded the business in the late 1960s was a former intelligence officer in World War Two? With a very eminent role in Operation Mincemeat – a devious plan which saved the lives of thousands of Allied servicemen.

His name was Charles Cholmondeley (pronounced Chumley).

In 1943 Allied troops were set to invade Nazi-occupied southern Europe, having just wrested North Africa from the Germans. The obvious place of attack was Sicily, but the Germans were very alert to this and heavily reinforced the island. Charles and his co-conspirator Ewen Montagu began devising a plan to persuade the Nazis that the target would be Greece. Charles had what was described as a 'corkscrew mind'. He set about thinking that if they could get washed up on an enemy beach a so-called British Officer's body with false information about the intended target, then Sicily would be less heavily defended. It was a very difficult deception to pull off and necessarily involved all sorts of ruses, most of which were down to Charles' convoluted bizarre thinking. But it worked and many of our troops owed their lives to his cunning and even eccentric frame of mind. If you want to find out the true, detailed story you will find it in Ben Macintyre's well researched book.

Charles never got – or wanted – the credit he was due for his role in the invasion. After the war he went into MI5 and eventually retired to Somerset. He needed to do something different and the lump sum he received when he retired went to buy the old sailcloth building in North Street where he started the business which we know today as 'Crewkerne Hort'. Many of us can still remember him. A tall thin bespectacled, moustached man standing behind the counter in a grey overall. So if you do see the film (which stars Matthew Macfadyen as Charles Cholmondeley and Colin Frith as Ewen Montagu), do think of the vital role he played. As perhaps you cut your Misterton grass with a lawn mower from the local firm which he founded.



The real Charles Cholmondeley

John Dyke

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Celebrating Easter

We Brits tend not to make too much of a fuss about Easter. For us, Christmas reigns supreme. Easter is chiefly noteworthy only for being preceded by a public holiday on Good Friday and another one on Easter Monday. Even though Easter is the most sacred time in the Christian liturgical calendar because Christ's resurrection is deemed to be more important than His birth, it is overshadowed by Christmas by most Brits. Easter has become a time for family get-togethers, harmless outbreaks of Morris dancing and, of course, Easter eggs for the kiddies to be followed by a week's holiday from school.

Unlike Christmas, Easter does not occur on a fixed date each year. It can vary up to a full month. It is a moveable feast, falling on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox. The formula used to decide the date was determined over 1,700 years ago by the first Council of Nicaea (now Iznik in Turkey).

Easter is rightly considered nowadays to be an essentially Christian tradition, but it wasn't always so. The very word 'Easter' has its origin in a pagan goddess, Eostre. She was worshipped by early Anglo-Saxons as the goddess of fertility, who was associated with flowers and the beginning of spring. Her festival coincided with the spring equinox, so even that date still has a connection with the Christian calendar.

Simnel cake is traditionally served at Easter. 'Simnel' probably derives from a Latin word that means the finest and whitest of flour. A traditional simnel cake is decorated with eleven marzipan balls. These represent Christ's disciples, excluding the treacherous Judas. Another feature of Easter is its connection with eggs. Their shells are claimed to symbolize the tomb from which Jesus resurrected. In early Christian times, fasting was mandatory during the forty days of Lent. Among other restrictions, the consumption of dairy products and eggs was forbidden by the Church. Yet the chickens continued to lay eggs during Lent, so people would hard boil them, decorate them, and keep them to celebrate Easter.



The biggest ever chocolate Easter egg was made in 2011 in Italy. It weighed 15,873 lbs, measured 64 ft its widest point and stood 34 ft high. However, the first chocolate Easter eggs date from the late 1800s in France and Germany.

Easter parades have been part of Christian culture since its earliest beginnings, but the biggest took place in 1947 on Fifth Avenue in New York where there were estimated to be a million participants. The Easter bonnet business is no more than part of the idea that new clothes should be worn to celebrate the advent of spring. Off with the old, on with the new, as it were.



In Australia, rabbits are considered to be pests that destroy crops, so Easter Bunnies now play no part in the celebrations. Instead, since 1991, they've been replaced by Easter 'Bilbys'. A bilby is no more than a 14-inch-long, rabbit-eared bandicoot, a creature that looks a bit like the real thing. When not flying homemade kites to mark the Easter festival, Bermudan folk feast on hot-cross buns and codfish cakes, whereas Mexicans enjoy an event called The Burning of The Judases. This involves creating images of Judas and then burning them at the stake or blowing them up with fireworks. Cheery stuff and ideal for the kiddies, eh? Citizens of Florence in Italy also celebrate with fireworks, a practice dating back to the First Crusade in the 11th century.



American children used to believe that Easter eggs came from egg-laying hares and would build nests where the hares could lay their colourful eggs. The hare motif may have had its origins in the goddess, Eostre, whose sacred animal was the hare. Children are given chocolate eggs in France. Many of them contain Easter chicks, reputedly to symbolize new



life and rebirth. The same children are encouraged to believe that as church bells fall silent between Good Friday and Easter Sunday, the bells are kept busy developing wings, which enable them to fly to Rome to fetch the eggs. Near Toulouse, villagers make a giant omelette from 15,000 eggs. Once cooked, it is sliced into a thousand portions to be eaten as a celebration of Easter.

In Finland and Sweden, children dress up as witches and go begging in the streets for Easter eggs. Adults in those countries often have bonfires on Easter Sunday. The reason for them is a Nordic belief that the flames will ward off real witches who are believed to fly around on their broomsticks between Good Friday and Easter Sunday. In Poland and Hungary, though, people drench one another with buckets of water - claimed to be representative of baptismal water. Easter eggs in Greece are dyed red to symbolize the blood of Christ. Swiss children believe Easter eggs are delivered by a cuckoo. A fox delivers them in Germany.

On balance, I think most Brits would settle for Easter eggs. Anyway, have a good Easter, however you celebrate it.

John Coquet



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Church services April 2022

Sunday 3rd April 2022: 5th Sunday in Lent

Misterton: No service

Haselbury: 10:00am Holy Communion - Andrew Daynes

North Perrott: No service

Sunday 10th April 2022: Palm Sunday

Misterton: 11:00am Holy Communion - Bob Keyes

Haselbury: 8:00am Holy Communion - Andrew Daynes

North Perrott: 9:30am Holy Communion - Gerry Riley

Sunday 17th April 2022: Easter Sunday

Misterton: 9:30am Holy Communion - David Newman

Haselbury: 11:00am Holy Communion - Andrew Daynes

North Perrott: No service

Sunday 24th April 2022: 2nd Sunday of Easter

Misterton: 8:00am Holy Communion - TBC

Haselbury: 11:00am Holy Communion - David Newman

North Perrott: 9:30am Holy Communion - Bob Keyes

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April 10th	Mrs S Coquet	Mrs P Entwisle	Mrs B England
April 17th	Flower Guild	-	-
April 24th	FG to check	-	-

Saturday 30th April 2022

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Crewkerne Probus Club



Probus Clubs provide regular gatherings for those retired or semi-retired business or professional people who, in retirement, appreciate and value opportunities to meet others in similar circumstances and with similar interests.

Crewkerne Probus Club organises meetings for lunch on the last Wednesday of each month. These are held at the **Windwhistle Inn** at 12.15 for 1.00pm. The 2 course meal currently costs £15 per head and is followed by an after lunch speaker on an interesting topic.

Each year special events are held to which our partners, as well as other guests, are invited – a Ladies Lunch in May, an Autumn Supper, a Christmas Lunch and a summer outing.

If you are a retired professional or business man living in the Crewkerne area, why not consider joining us? Contact David Bryant on 01460 74422



Misterton Football Club



Hello readers,

At the time of writing only three matches have been played by the Misterton teams throughout March. The first team enjoyed two victories that included a 7-0 win at Crewkerne Rangers and an exciting victory on penalties away to West & Middle Chinnock in the Coronation Cup. The reserves suffered a 2-1 league defeat at home to Barrington in the same period.

Once again, we lack visibility of any forthcoming fixtures for April. As I mentioned last month, we are entering a period of cup games. The first weekend of April sees the first team host Perry Street in the semi-final of the Coronation Cup. On the same date the reserves travel to Shepton Beauchamp for a cup fixture.

The Vets play their last fixture of the season in April. The exact date is still to be confirmed.

As always, we look forward to seeing you at the Recreation Ground to cheer us on for the remainder of the season.

Date	Time	Team	Opponents	Home/Away	Competition
5th Mar	2:30pm	First	Crewkerne Rangers	A	Premier
12th Mar	2:30pm	Reserves	Barrington	H	Div One
13th Mar	11:00am	Vets	Milborne Port	A	Somerset Vets Group 5

Finally, as Easter approaches the club are planning an Easter Bingo. This is scheduled for Monday 11th April at the village hall. Doors open at 18:30, with eyes down at 19:30. We look forward to seeing you there.

Regards,

Martin French
MFC Treasurer

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Misterton Gardeners Association

Our meeting this month is on Friday April 29th at 7:30pm in the WI hall. We have a speaker from the Gold Club joining us. Probably Mike Burks who founded the Sherborne Castle Gardens Centre in 1986. Mike is very entertaining and, whoever the speaker, the topic will be 'Companion Planting: plants which go well together'. At this time of year - when we are all thinking about what to put in - this is a very topical talk. Misterton gardeners in the past were masters of this art (since many things when planted in close proximity ward off diseases) but in this age of chemicals, this knowledge has largely been forgotten. So do come along - and probably save yourself some money from buying herbicides and insecticides.

Our Flower of the Month is now underway, so bring along your favourite flower to our meeting.

Traditionally April is the month of sunshine and showers. And although our soils will be warming up, they tend in Misterton to do so quite slowly, So don't be too hasty at putting things into your gardens. Inevitably there will be frosts!! Best to spend your time in preparation. Turn your soils over, sow seeds indoors in trays and get rid of weeds as soon as they appear. Feed trees and shrubs with a balanced slow-release fertiliser. And harden off your bedding plants, by taking them outdoors during the day and bringing them back indoors during the evening. If you have space - and if your soil is friable - you can plant some early potatoes and put in some onion sets.

As I write these notes, our magnolia tree is just beginning to bud. I hope it holds back since the flowers are so susceptible to frost. Below is a photo of it last year before it was browned by a hard frost. The photo was taken on April 5th. So let's hope we avoid the frosts this year. Magnolias are really so wonderful when they are in full bloom.

Diana Dyke

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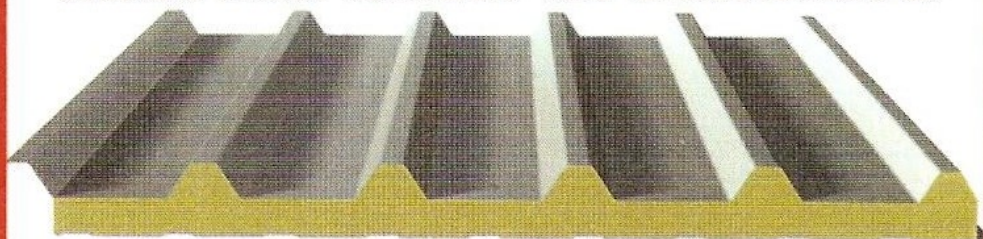
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Misterton Church of England First School



Our wonderful Mrs Baker received her 20-year Service Award for her role as our School Crossing Patrol. Whatever the weather Mrs Baker is the first friendly face our children see in the morning. She is a well-loved member of the community who is respected throughout Misterton and Crewkerne. Many people wave and beep as they pass her!

To mark this special occasion Mrs Baker received a new pin for her crossing patrol hat. As part of our Celebration Worship the children were very excited to see her receive her award. Mrs Baker does not like a fuss but we did make a fuss of her! Not only does she greet the children every morning but she also serves them their lunch every day! Over the years, Mrs Baker has taken part in many of our school activities; she loves a welly walk, watching the children learn to swim, playing games at lunch time and talking and sharing stories about her time when she was a pupil at Misterton First School. The children listen attentively to her and always ask her many questions. Mrs Baker is very proud of the roles she does and we are extremely proud to have her as part of our Misterton C of E First School team. Congratulations Mrs Baker from us all at Misterton C of E First School.

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Refugee aid

As I write in early March, Ukraine is being bombarded by Russia and fighting for its existence. Already two million have fled the country, mainly women and children, into camps, or, if fortunate, to family and friends close by or further afield, and even into strangers' homes. Money and goods are being donated from around the world to assist with their settlement for as long as is needed.

Syrians empathise. Russia intervened in their civil war in 2015 as an ally of its president, using air strikes, special forces on the ground to retake areas lost to the rebels, even chemical weapons. Russia is there still, having established many spheres of interest in the area while testing its latest weapon systems on the population. War crimes are alleged but civilians and children are still being killed in Syria. There are almost seven million displaced persons in the state with nearly seven million more as refugees and asylum seekers. A huge number are children who may spend their whole lives in camps along with other nationalities fleeing other continuous conflict.

Raft (Refugee Aid From Taunton) had to close its premises, rent free from Taunton Council since 2015, as the site is being developed. The trustees hope to open new premises in Taunton in mid April which will cost £18,000pa in rent and will be smaller, making logistics more difficult. At first only spring and summer clothing for men, women and children and boots and shoes for all (not wellingtons) are requested as they learn to manage the new space. If you can, please hold on to other items, e.g. blankets until required; if unable please contact me. In addition, if anyone knows of a large spacious building in the Taunton area, which could be available to rent more cheaply (or for free), indefinitely or for a long period, please contact me or Raft directly.

Meanwhile, Refugee Support Group (RSG) is once again organising fundraising events for Raft and for refugee charities working on the ground in Europe and the Middle East.

There will be a coffee morning in Ilminster on Thursday 7th April from 10:30am to 12:30pm, at 20 Silver Street, the house just before the Minster. There will be books and homemade cakes to buy. Perhaps meet friends that spring morning in Ilminster, supporting refugees while enjoying coffees.

On Sunday May 22nd our popular afternoon event Music in the Meadow will take place in the Secret Garden at the end of West Street in Hinton St George from 2:00pm. Very talented musicians Ricky Romain and Teasing the Cat will perform. There will be stalls and a raffle. Look out for our poster and direction signs in the village. Please bring your own drinks and chairs. Tickets are £10 at the gate or in advance from Amanda on 01460 72553. A donation is suggested for children.

Our grateful thanks go to all who offer support for those surviving in camps for years.

Geraldine Downey
RSG
01460 271358



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In this month...

Events in British history that happened in April.

- 3rd 1721: Robert Walpole becomes the first Prime Minister of Britain
- 4th 1964: The Beatles fill the first 5 places in the USA's singles charts
- 7th 1739: Dick Turpin, the highwayman, is hanged in York
- 8th 1838: Maiden voyage of Brunel's ship, Great Western
- 10th 1633: Bananas go on sale in London for the first time
- 12th 1606: The Union Flag becomes the official British flag
- 15th 1755: Samuel Johnson's dictionary is published
- 17th 1969: The minimum voting age is lowered from 21 to 18
- 23rd 1616: William Shakespeare dies
- 26th 1923: The future King George VI and Queen Elizabeth are married

John Coquet



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Dates for your diary

April 2022

Tuesday April 5th	WI meeting	7:15pm	WI hall
Wednesday April 6th	Coffee morning	10:00am	WI hall
Monday April 11th	Easter bingo	6:30pm	Village hall
Tuesday April 19th	Parish Council meeting	6:30pm	WI hall
Friday April 29th	Gardeners association meeting	7:30pm	WI hall

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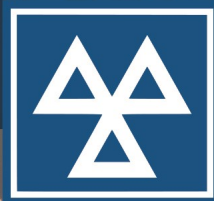
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